

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 MCT-01 OPR-02 AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00

/078 W

-----151108Z 045969 /22

R 150845Z FEB 77

FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0619

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALEXANDRIA 0131

CAIRO PASS PORT SAID

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SEDV, EG

SUBJECT: UNREST AT ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY

REF: CAIRO 2509

1. ALTHOUGH OUTWARDLY CALM ON FEBRUARY 12, WHEN NEW SEMESTER STARTED, STUDENTS AND FACULTY AT ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY ARE UNEASY. PART OF PROBLEM RELATES BACK TO FOOD PRICE RIOTS OF JANUARY 18-19 WHEN SEVEN STUDENTS AND TWO PROFESSORS WERE ARRESTED.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESIDENT-EMERITUS LUTFI DEWIDAR, CUSTOM PREVIOUSLY WAS FOR POLICE TO RELEASE SUCH DEMONSTRATORS TO CUSTODY OF UNIVERSITY. BECAUSE "PRESIDENT SADAT IS BEING VERY STRICT" THIS TIME, ALL REMAIN IN HANDS OF POLICE. THIS, AND SADAT'S EDICT AGAINST POLITICS ON CAMPUS, ARE DISTURBING THE STUDENTS.

3. NEW UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT ALI REDA HUNEIDY IS, TO JUDGE BY SEVERAL RECENT INCIDENTS, NEITHER VERY EFFECTIVE NOR VERY POPULAR.
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DR. DEWIDAR TYPIFIED ALI REDA'S PROBLEM AS "NERVOUSNESS". OTHERS HAVE CALLED HIM "INDECISIVE", WHILE SOME HAVE CRITICIZED HIM FOR WAVERING BETWEEN OVER RIGIDITY IN SOME SITUATIONS TO INEXCUSABLE LAXNESS IN OTHERS.

4. FACULTIES OF ENGINEERING AND COMMERCE SEEM TO BE CENTERS OF GREATEST UNREST. ONE PROFESSOR AT EACH SCHOOL IS UNDER ARREST.

BUILDINGS ARE OPEN AND STUDENTS ON CAMPUS, BUT THEY SEEM TO HAVE SPENT LAST FOUR DAYS MILLING ABOUT GROUNDS AND HAVING INFORMAL MEETINGS. LAW FACULTY AND ARTS FACULTY ARE HOLDING CLASSES, BUT MANY STUDENTS ARE ABSENTING THEMSELVES THERE, TOO.

5. ACCORDING TO DEWIDAR, MALCONTENTS AND AGITATORS ARE SMALL PERCENT OF TOTAL STUDENT BODY AND HE YESTERDAY ADVISED ALI REDA NOT TO MAKE ISSUE OF PRESENT ABSENTEEISM. HE FEELS SURE STUDENTS WILL REALIZE SOON THAT THEY ARE LOSING VALUABLE EDUCATION TIME AND WILL SETTLE DOWN TO STUDIES.
CHASE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 15-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
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